

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 698

By Dickerson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Charles Edward Allen, Jr., of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Charles Edward Allen, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Louisville, Kentucky, on December 14, 1930, Charles Edward “Charlie” Allen, Jr., was the son of Dr. Charles E. Allen, Sr., and Martha Belle Byrd Allen; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Male High School, Charles Allen received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1952 from Maryville College, where he was captain of the football team and co-captain of the basketball team; and

WHEREAS, while attending Maryville College, Charles Allen met and fell in love with Grace Scruggs; in 1954, they married and began their life together which spanned nearly sixty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Charles Allen earned a Bachelor of Divinity degree from the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and from 1955 to 1956, he served as chaplain of Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, returning to Tennessee, the Allens settled in the Tri-Cities area, where Mr. Allen served as the minister of Meadowview Presbyterian Church from 1957 through 1961 while also employed as a counselor and coach at Tennessee Junior High School in Bristol; and

WHEREAS, in 1963, the Allens relocated to Nashville, where they made their home for the remainder of his years. From 1963 through 1965, he served as Director of Youth Activities

at First Presbyterian Church, and from 1966 through 1972, he served as Director of Youth Ministries at the Martha O'Bryan Center; and

WHEREAS, continuing his education, Charles Allen received a graduate degree in Early Childhood Education in 1967 from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt and launched the first childcare center for the University of Tennessee in Nashville in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen embarked on a new venture in 1978, the DreamHouse project, whereby he conceptualized and constructed small indoor playhouses for preschool and kindergarten children with free instructions and resources made available; and

WHEREAS, more than 10,000 DreamHouses were constructed in the United States and around the world; in recognition of his work on the project, Nashville was declared the "first DreamHouse city in the nation" by then Mayor Phil Bredesen; and

WHEREAS, an extraordinary fundraiser, Mr. Allen constructed a replica 1800s flatboat to prompt attention and support for DreamHouse, and he also later constructed a circa late-1700s raft and, for sixteen days, floated down the Cumberland River to raise money for the Edgehill Community Center; during which venture, he became the first to traverse the Old Hickory Lake Locks in fifty years; and

WHEREAS, in 1974, Charles Allen pursued yet another endeavor as the founder of Authentique, a décor-acquisition business, whose notable clients included Opryland and the TGI Friday's restaurant chain, who honored him in 1997 with its first TGI Friday's Worldwide "Living Legend Award"; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Charles Allen's extensive community service earned him numerous awards, including: the first Mary Catherine Strobel Award for Outstanding Volunteer of the Year; the Civitan Club Crownover Award for Nashville Citizen of the Year in 1985; the Outstanding Service Award from the Tennessee Association for the Education of Young Children (TAEYC); the Community Service Award of the Junior League of Nashville; the Rotary Club's highest award, the Paul Harris Founder Medal; and the TAEYC 2003 Champion of Children Award which was presented by First Lady Andrea Conte; and

WHEREAS, a founding member of the Green Hills YMCA, where he was known for his prowess on the basketball court, Charles Allen and his wife, Grace, were named Members of

the Year by the Greater Nashville YMCA and selected for inclusion on the "Wall of Fame" at the Green Hills YMCA in 1996; and

WHEREAS, honored multiple times by his alma maters, Maryville College and Vanderbilt University, Mr. Allen received the Distinguished Alumni Award from both Vanderbilt and Maryville in addition to being named to the Maryville College Athletic Hall of Fame and receiving the Apple Award for outstanding service to children from Vanderbilt in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen enjoyed the love and support of his beloved wife, Grace Scruggs Allen, their two sons, Thomas E. Allen and David Allen (Lisa), and their daughter, Jenny and her husband, Jack Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, he was the beloved grandparent of four grandchildren, Grace Ann Lukach, Molly Cunningham, Cate Allen, and Jack Allen, and one great-grandson, Brooks Lukach; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Allen leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Charles Edward Allen, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his superlative service to his community and to the well-being of young children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Allen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.